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FM LUXEMBOURG
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 005
OF 181120Z JANUARY 90
INFO PRIORITY ALL EC POSTS, UKDEL NATO, EAST BERLIN

MY TELCON WITH RAMSDEN WED: EAST GERMANY AND THE EC

SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKS FOR REACTIONS TO RECENT DELORS/GENSCHER STATEMENTS. HE THINKS EAST GERMANY SHOULD TAKE ITS TURN WITH OTHER APPLICANTS. ✓

DETAIL

2. POOS ASKED ME YESTERDAY IF I COULD GIVE HIM ANY INDICATION OF BRITISH THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON 20 JANUARY. HE WAS CONCERNED BY RECENT STATEMENTS BY GENSCHER AND DELORS WHICH SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT AFTER AN EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION EAST GERMANY COULD TAKE ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT FURTHER ADO. A BIG POPULAR VOTE IN EAST GERMANY FOR REUNIFICATION COULD BE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY A VOTE IN FAVOUR OF BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY. WHAT WOULD THE COMMUNITY THEN DO?

3. HIS OWN VIEW (NOT YET DISCUSSED WITH HIS COALITION PARTNERS) WAS THAT EAST GERMANY SHOULD TAKE ITS TURN IN WAITING FOR ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. HE DID NOT SEE WHY EAST GERMANY SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY. (N.B. LUXEMBOURG IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT EARLY AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION AND HAS A NUMBER OF LINKS WITH HUNGARY WHICH POOS HAS VISITED THIS WEEK.) IF THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE MEMBERSHIP OF NEUTRAL AUSTRIA, HOW MUCH MORE SO OVER EAST GERMANY AS A MEMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT. I SAID I THOUGHT OUR REACTION WOULD BE CAUTIOUS FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS, AND WOULD LET HIM KNOW IF I COULD OBTAIN A MORE AUTHORITATIVE VIEW.

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